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March 31, 1983

Board of County Commissioners, Carbon County Courthouse, Red Lodge, MT
Bill King, County Sanitarian, P. O. Box 460, Red Lodge, MT
Carbon County Planning Board, P. O. Box 460, Red Lodge, MT
Carbon County News, Red Lodge, Montana
Mike Kapor, P. O. Box 263, Bridger, MT
Ronald Kotar, Mayor, City of Red Lodge, P. O. Box 507, Red Lodge, MT
Herman Miller, Mayor, Town of Bridger, P. O. Box W, Bridger, MT
Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Room 432, Helena, MT
Harold Chambers, State Library, Capitol Complex, Helena, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena, MT

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, 16.2.604, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Carbon County Class II landfill west of Bridger.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. GEACH
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

JCG:vc
Encls.

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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Carbon County Landfill-Bridger, MT

Description of Project The Carbon County Board of Commissioners has submitted to this department a solid waste management system license application for an 80 acre Class II landfill west of Bridger. This proposed landfill would serve the population of Carbon County. This PER was prepared in conjunction with this application.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution			X			X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics				X		
6. Air quality			X			X
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			X
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production			X			X
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services			X			X
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy			X			X
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows		X				X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction Carbon County Planning Board, Carbon County Health Department

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER.

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS No EIS Necessary

PER Prepared by: John C. Geach
JOHN C. GEACH

Date: March 29, 1983

DHES/ESD-2

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. Water quality, quantity and distribution.

The Soil Conservation Service hydrogeological report for this proposed landfill indicates any leachate that may be produced "will be concentrated and forced to move laterally by the clay lining of the sandstone reaches, and by the shale materials in the gully bottoms. The majority of this lateral flow would be forced to appear at the downstream toe of the fill where collection and disposal would be possible." . . . "Small amounts of leachate that may infiltrate into the underlying sandstone would be confined to an aquifer that is not within economically drilling depth. Leaate is not expected to travel laterally to the north." The SCS further states "Small amounts of leachate may reach sand creek canal during exceptionally rare periods of heavy runoff. The leachate would be diluted to undetectable levels. With proper operations to minimize leachate, the surface water pollution potential is low."

3. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture.

Normal landfill operations modify the soils moisture and stability characteristics within the filled areas. Some minor settling may occur over completed trench areas. However, with proper grading and re-dressing of these areas, no serious or long-term settling problems should result.

4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality.

The area currently contains native vegetation including sagebrush and native grasses. This vegetation will be disturbed during landfilling. However, this disturbance will be short-term and these plant species should quickly re-establish on the filled portion of the site.

6. Air quality

The operation of a landfill results in the generation of dust and equipment exhaust emissions. Control procedures can be taken at the site to limit these sources of air pollution to acceptable levels. In addition, licensed landfills can obtain state air quality burning permits to burn clean, untreated wood wastes. Emissions from the periodic burning of these materials should have minor impacts on the area's air quality.

8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air and energy.

This proposed landfill site currently has very limited animal grazing potential. The ravines in this site are also hampering the farming operations of the property owner. Landfilling in this site will temporarily remove these areas from agricultural use. However, the completion of landfilling operations will enable these ravines to be developed into productive crop or grazing land.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

4. Agricultural or industrial production.

See #8 "Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air and energy."

10. Demand for government services.

Governmental services will be required on the local and state level for inspectional and administrative services associated with the issuance of a solid waste management system license to this landfill.

12. Demands for energy.

Gasoline, diesel fuel and other petroleum products will be consumed in the transportation of refuse to the landfill site and in the operation of the equipment needed at the site to properly operate the landfill.

14. Transportation networks and traffic flows.

It is anticipated this proposed landfill will serve the entire county population. With this type of usage, the roads leading to the site will experience a significant increase in traffic. Associated with this increased traffic flow will be increased road maintenance, snow removal, dust generation and possible roadside litter.